

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 29 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-3, 5-17, 19-28, 30-31 and 33-42 remain rejected in the application. Claims 43-58 are pending. Claims 59-82 are added. Applicants thank Examiner for the indication that claims 43-58 are directed toward allowable subject matter. The foregoing amendments to Claims 43-58 should make Examiner's objections to these claims moot. However, the Examiner's explanation of why Claims 45-47 and 48-50 are allowable is somewhat confusing, as the allowable subject matter cited by the Examiner does not appear in each claim as cited. Therefore, to ensure the file history is not tainted with inaccurate information, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to restate his reasons for allowable subject matter in order to be consistent with elements and limitations recited in those claims.

Claims 43-45, 48-53, and 56-58 are rewritten in independent form as required by the Examiner. These amendments do not change the scope of Claims 43-45, 48-53, and 56-58, nor affect their equivalents.

Claims 2-14 are amended to be dependent upon Claim 45 and are therefore allowable as being dependent to a claim with allowable subject matter.

Claim 15 is amended to require that the scheduling driver implements a protocol using time estimates enabling the scheduling driver to be usable with a device that does not generate interrupts. This limitation, in combination with the previously recited limitations of Claim 15, have been identified by the Examiner as directed toward allowable subject matter. Therefore, Claim 15 and its progeny are allowable.

Claims 30-42 are amended to be dependent upon claim 53 and are therefore allowable as being dependent to a claim with allowable subject matter.

Claims 59-82 are added to recite embodiments of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification as originally filed. Claims 59-70 are dependent upon claim 43 and are therefore allowable as being dependent to a claim with allowable subject matter. Claims 71-82 are dependent upon claim 51 and are therefore allowable as being dependent to a claim with allowable subject matter.

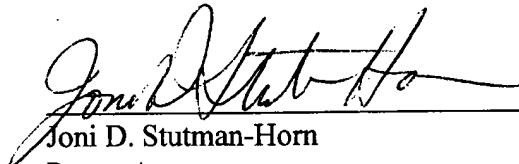
Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the enclosed amendment and remarks is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Claims 2-3, 5-17, 19-28, 30-31 and 33-82 are all in condition for immediate allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 633-6845. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please charge any shortage of fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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